

JMR

Miss Elliott.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

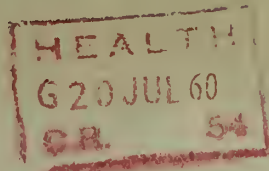
C. P. H. McCALL, M.B.E., T.D.
CLERK OF THE PEACE AND
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL



P.O. Box 78

COUNTY HALL
PRESTON

TELEPHONE 4868 EXTENSION 499
OUR REFERENCE G/TM/N.600
YOUR REFERENCE



19th July, 1960.

Dear Sir,

Re-inspection of Formby Urban
District

... For your information I enclose a copy of a Report of a re-inspection of the Formby Urban District carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health. This has been submitted to the Public Health and Housing Committee of this Authority and copies have been forwarded to the Urban District Council with an invitation to submit observations to the County Council.

Yours faithfully,

C. P. H. McCall
Clerk of the County Council

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Savile Row,
LONDON, S.W.1.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ON
THE RE-INSPECTION OF THE FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT

Report No. 66
2nd Re-inspection

Presented to the Public Health and Housing Committee on
the 13th July, 1960.

INTRODUCTION

The following Report on the Housing, Sanitary Circumstances and Administration of the Formby Urban District is compiled in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1933, and the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, which authorise the County Medical Officer of Health to visit, as occasion may require, the several County Districts, and make inquiries respecting all matters affecting, or likely to affect, the public health of the County.

The first inspection of the district was carried out in 1924 (Special Report No. 66). A further re-inspection was made in the year 1926.

In the present instance, a more detailed inspection of the district has been carried out.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Description of the Area

Formby was constituted an Urban District in 1905, having previously been a Parish in the West Lancashire Rural District.

The district, situated 13 miles from Liverpool and 7 from Southport, is mainly residential in character, and is situated on the coast with the Irish Sea to westward; the northern boundary adjoins the County Borough of Southport, and the West Lancashire Rural District extends from the north along the eastern and southern boundaries. The district extends for about 3 miles from north to south and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from west to east.

There are four wards, namely Freshfield, Old Town, Duke Street and Raven Meols. The Council of the district has 12 members, 3 representing each ward.

The population has doubled since the Urban District was designated 55 years ago.

Height above O.D. varies from sea level to 50 feet. The subsoil is mainly of sand, but there is a small area of peat in the north-east.

Some of the land is devoted to agriculture; industry does not provide any appreciable amount of employment for residents, who mainly earn a livelihood on Merseyside or in Southport.

Public Transport and Utility Services

Freshfield and Formby Stations are on the electrified railway line which serves the coastal area between Southport and Liverpool, and there is a frequent service of trains.

Bus services are provided by Ribble Motor Services Ltd. from Liverpool to Southport via Crosby.

The Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board provide electricity, and the North Western Gas Board gas services.

Parks and Recreation Grounds

The Duke Street Park provides facilities for children and grown-ups by way of swings etc., bowling greens, football and cricket pitches; and in addition there are other open spaces where open air games can be enjoyed.

Not the least of the attractions of the district is the fine stretch of beach with pine clad sand hills to the eastward. Two main points of access to the beach are at Formby and Freshfield. In summer time, many hundreds of visitors throng the beach.

These beaches are relatively free from contamination by sewage, etc.

Statistics

Area of district in statute acres (1958) at High Water Mark - 5,613

" " " " " " " at Low Water Mark - 7,308

Number of inhabited houses in 1924 was 1,426, whilst in 1958 the number was 3,199, an increase of 1,773.

Population:

Census 1911	5,947
" 1921	6,318
" 1931	7,965
" 1951	10,436
Estimated mid-1958	10,790

The population is estimated to have increased by 4,036 since the year 1924.

Density of population at the end of 1958:

No. of houses per acre	0.57	(taken on high water mark basis)
No. of persons per acre	1.9	
No. of persons per house	3.37	

Rateable value at 31st December, 1958 £149,076

Sum represented by 1d. rate at the end of 1958 £591

The principal Vital Statistics for the four decennial periods between 1911 and 1950, together with those for each of the last eight years are given below:—

	Estimated Population (all ages)	Live Births		Stillbirths		Deaths (all causes)		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality		Cancer		Respiratory Tuberculosis		
		No. regis- tered	Crude rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Crude rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. of infant deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of maternal deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	
Mean of 10 years:-																
1911 - 1920	5,940 5,740	95	16.0	*	*	67	11.7	5	53	Nil	Nil	6	1.05	5	0.87	
1921 - 1930	6,970	95	13.6	*	*	72	10.3	4	42	Nil	Nil	10	1.43	5	0.72	
1931 - 1940	8,540 8,570	107	12.5	3	27	100	11.7	6	56	Nil	Nil	14	1.63	5	0.58	
1941 - 1950	9,350	142	15.2	3	21	122	13.0	6	42	Nil	Nil	19	2.03	3	0.32	
Year:-																
1951	10,560	130	12.3	2	15	150	14.2	3	23	1	7.58	31	2.94	2	0.19	
1952	10,520	131	12.5	4	30	116	11.0	5	38	Nil	Nil	18	1.71	3	0.29	
1953	10,100	145	14.4	Nil	Nil	108	10.7	4	28	Nil	Nil	12	1.19	2	0.20	
1954	9,980	135	13.5	1	7	114	11.4	4	30	Nil	Nil	22	2.20	1	0.10	
1955	11,170	142	12.7	2	14	114	10.2	2	14	Nil	Nil	24	2.15	2	0.18	
1956	10,340	146	14.1	1	7	121	11.7	1	7	Nil	Nil	10	0.97	2	0.19	
1957	10,470	163	15.6	2	12	104	9.9	5	31	Nil	Nil	22	2.10	Nil	Nil	
1958	10,790	163	15.1	3	18	135	12.5	1	6	Nil	Nil	26	2.41	2	0.19	

✓ For calculating birth rate

✗ For calculating death rate

* Not available

NOTE: From 1950 deaths from Hodgkins disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia are included in the total of cancer deaths.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. M.G. Garry, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.
Dr. Garry is also engaged in private practice in the Formby area.

Public Health Inspector - Noel Benson, Esq., D.P.A., who also holds the following qualifications:-

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board as a Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as an Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Smoke Abatement.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science.

Certificate of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers in Sanitary Engineering.

Mr. Benson is a well qualified and conscientious officer. His office is within the main Council Offices, and part-time clerical assistance is provided. More clerical assistance should be made available to enable the Public Health Inspector to devote more of his time to outside inspectorial work and those duties for which he is especially appointed.

Mr. Benson uses his own car on official business, for which he is paid an allowance in accordance with the approved scale.

ACTS AND BYE-LAWS IN FORCE

The following acts and bye-laws are in operation in the district:-

Acts

Towns Police Clauses Act, 1847, Section 21 - Order made 7.9.1936.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts 1/4 -
Adopted 13.8.1906.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890 - Adopted 13.8.1906.

Private Street Works Act, 1892 - Adopted 5.3.1906.

Formby U.D.C. Act, 1905.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 15/20, 22, 28/30, 32/33, comprised in Part II. The whole of Parts IV and VI, Sections 80 and 86 of Part VII, the whole of Part X.

Public Health Act, 1925, Part II (except Section 21/22) -
Adopted 7.11.1927.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14 - Order 12.3.1952.

Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, Section 13/14 -
Adopted 11.2.1952.

Bye-laws, etc.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 15 - confirmed 21.12.1951.

Bye-laws as to Seashore - 15.9.1929.

Hackney Carriage Bye-laws - 9.4.1951 and 13.5.1957.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 61 - Building Bye-laws - 29.6.1954.

Clean Air Act, 1956, Section 24 - Smoke Prevention - 24.3.1959.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Hospital Accommodation

The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board are responsible for the provision of accommodation, and cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the City Hospital, Fazackerley, Liverpool, or New Hall Hospital, Scarisbrick, near Southport.

Any cases of smallpox would be removed to a hospital provided by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

Disinfection

In those instances where cases of infectious disease are isolated and nursed at home, it is usual for terminal disinfection to be effected by the fumigation of bedrooms with formaldehyde.

During the year 1958, 27 articles were disinfected at the District Council's disinfecting station, where a Sparkhall Disinfector is installed. The apparatus is of 80 cubic feet capacity; in it a special fluid is vapourised in contact with articles to be treated. When the period required has elapsed, the chamber is cleared of the vapour by an extractor fan.

In addition, twelve rooms were fumigated.

During the period of infectivity of notified cases, disinfectants are supplied to the households free of charge.

DISINFESTATION

In addition to the valuable routine inspection of houses suspected or known to be verminous, the use of spraying fluids containing D.D.T. Pyrethium, etc., has given good results.

For cockroaches and similar pests, powders are used with satisfactory results.

Where removal of furniture, suspected of being verminous, to a Council owned house is contemplated, spraying is carried out; no instances of subsequent infestation of the new houses have been recorded.

RODENT CONTROL

A trained rodent operator, employed by the District Council on a full-time basis, is available for all work associated with the destruction of rats and mice.

The systematic baiting in sewers is carried out; no serious infestation was discovered during 1958.

During 1958, 1,084 visits were made for purposes of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and were as follows:-

	Type of Property		
	Non-Agricultural		Agricultural
	Dwelling houses	All other	
(a) No. of properties in district	3,230	277	38
(b) No. of properties inspected	156	79	38
(c) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	753	237	94
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats - major infestations	-	-	-
" - minor "	97	15	14
Mice - major "	-	-	-
" - minor "	6	4	-
(e) No. of infested properties treated	103	19	3
(f) Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	110	21	4
(g) No. of "block" control schemes carried out	-	-	-
(h) Any other action	-	-	-

MORTUARY

The building, which is owned and maintained by the District Council, is situated at the rear of the Council Offices. It is a brick built structure, having a blue slate roof. The structure is in a good state of repair. There is adequate natural lighting and ventilation. Electric lighting and heating are available.

The two entrances to the building, which is divided into two compartments, a post mortem room and a viewing room, are completely screened on the outside by a seven feet high brick wall and gates in Marsh Brow.

Each room has a good concrete floor; the one in the post mortem room is provided with a slight fall to a centre channel, which carries any liquids by way of a glazed pipe conduit through the wall to a trapped gully outside.

The slab used for post mortem examinations is of slate, having drainage grooves and slope to a fall pipe which is designed to carry liquids down to the open channel beneath and thence to the outside gully. This slab is supported upon a tubular steel frame which is provided with castors. A small electrically operated water heater of the storage type is coupled to the water main over the sink.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supply

The statutory water undertakers for the whole of the Urban District are the Southport and District Water Board.

Water is abstracted from deep wells sunk in the new red sandstone formation.

According to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1958, ten samples of water from the mains were taken in the district during the year. Every sample was reported by the Public Health Laboratory Service to be "highly satisfactory." The District Council are to be complimented upon adopting this routine of regular sampling of mains water. In addition, copies of the results of examination of samples taken by the staff of the Southport and District Water Board are sent to the Medical Officer of Health for his information.

The water may be described as hard in character with a pH value about 7.2.

Supply is constant and pressure satisfactory.

The main 14" diameter supply pipe enters the Urban District at the boundary between Formby and the County Borough of Southport near to Formby House, crossing the bye-pass road at the Villa-de-Marley. In Ryeground Lane near to the Grapes Hotel, the 14" main is divided; one branch 10" in diameter is laid along Church Road, School Lane, Chapel Lane and Browns Lane, ending near to Formby, whilst the other branch, which is 12" in diameter, is laid in Piercefield Road, Gores Lane and Victoria Road, terminating near Freshfield Station.

Other supply branch mains vary in diameter from 6 to 4 inches.

Water mains have and continue to be extended to keep pace with building development in the district.

Private Sources of Supply

Twenty-one premises, i.e. 17 houses and 4 holiday chalets, together with one cafe, depended until recently upon private water supplies. The cafe has, however, now secured a supply of water from the public mains by the laying of about 700 yards of 1" 'Alkathene' plastic pipe from the District Water Board's main in Victoria Road to the cafe site near to the beach. This pipe will also supply drinking water to four holiday chalets and about 13 caravans on a site, together with water for flushing the modern sanitary accommodation.

During 1958, 20 samples of water from the private sources of supply were submitted for bacteriological examination - four results of examinations were unsatisfactory:-

1958	Sources of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
3rd April - 3 bacteriological	3	3	-
29th April - 2 bacteriological	2	2	-
15th May - 2 bacteriological (repeats of 29th April)	2	2	-
30th Aug. - 2 bacteriological (repeats of 15th May)	2	2	-
12th Sept. - 2 bacteriological (repeats of 30th Aug.)	2	-	2
27th Sept. - 6 bacteriological (5 were repeats of 3rd April and 12th Sept.)	6	4	2 *
18th Oct. - 3 bacteriological (repeats of 27th Sept.)	3	3	-
20	20	16	4

* Relate to sources sampled on 3rd April, 1958.

NOTE: Of the four unsatisfactory samples, two related to a private source of supply which has since been discontinued and a mains supply provided.

These samples are referred to individually in the following notes on visits to the various dwellings, etc.:-

Cloverleydale Cottage, Freshfield

A small house of the bungalow type. Water is obtained from a shallow well about eight feet deep. There was about four feet depth of water at the time of inspection. The shaft has a circular brick lining, having open joints, with a circular concrete slab on top but level with surrounding land. If the well is to be continued in use, it should be improved by cleaning out the bottom of the shaft, raising the brick lining to 18 inches above surrounding ground in brickwork set in cement mortar, and replacing the concrete cover. A windmill pump stands nearby to lift the water.

There is a pail closet, the contents of which have to be disposed of by the tenant, about 80 feet from the well, and a disused piggery stands 65 feet from the shaft, whilst to the north at a distance of 50 feet there is a concrete manhole cover on a cesspool.

It is understood that there is no shortage of water from this source.

Golf Cottage, Freshfield

The well, which is of the shallow type and is situated at a distance of 12 feet from the rear of the house, has a good concrete cover and an iron manhole lid. The well shaft is lined with brickwork set in cement composition. Water is lifted to an iron storage tank fitted in the loft of the cottage by means of a hand operated lift and force pump.

Drainage of slop water and discharge from a water closet are piped to a septic tank some considerable distance from the cottage. This septic tank overflows to an adjoining ditch.

There is no evidence that water is in short supply.

The nearest public water main to these two cottages is understood to be in West Lane at the corner of Brewery Lane, a distance of more than 1,000 yards.

Atherton Cottage, Formby

This house, which is only occupied as a retreat (the tenant normally living in Kirklake Road, Formby), is about 75 years old and only has one living room, a bedroom and a kitchen.

The well, situated some 30 feet from the house, is of the shallow type. At the time of inspection, the level of the water stood at seven feet from the top of the shaft and the depth of water was several feet. Brickwork lining this shaft was found to be well pointed and the circular stone cover lies on the brickwork of the shaft above ground level. This stone has been dressed with a slope to the edge so as to carry rain water away from the manhole. A dustbin lid covered the manhole.

Foul drainage from the house is directed away from the well. A pail closet is provided.

A sample of water taken at the time of inspection and submitted for bacteriological examination was reported as being satisfactory.

The Firs, St. Luke's Church Road, Formby

A block of two large semi-detached houses on a site remote from other houses. One of the houses has been vacant for several years and presented a derelict appearance.

The other house is occupied by two adults and the water supply is drawn by means of an electric pump from a shallow well which is situated in a depression on the westerly side of the premises. The top of the well is covered with a flagstone and concrete cover which is laid about 18 inches below the surrounding ground.

Water is lifted up to a storage tank which stands in one of the upstairs rooms of the house. There is no record of any shortage in the supply of water.

A sample of water was drawn from the house tap and submitted for bacteriological examination. The report on this sample was satisfactory.

There is a public water main situated at a distance of about 20 yards from this property.

Asparagus Cottage

A detached bungalow type cottage situated in St. Luke's Church Road.

The well is situated to the south of the cottage and is not accessible for inspection.

A sample of water taken in 1959 for bacteriological examination gave a satisfactory result.

The nearest water main is approximately 300 yards away in Range Lane.

Range View Cottage

These premises consist of a wartime building which is used as a weekend cottage, and the occupier brings water from his home.

There is a well near to the premises but the Public Health Inspector states that this is not used for the provision of drinking water.

Cabin Hill, Church Road, Formby

It is stated that these premises are used only at weekends by a person who uses adjoining land for the growing of asparagus. The premises are substandard and in poor condition.

Water is obtained from a well which is situated near to the house on a plot of land cultivated as a garden. A concrete cover is provided over the shaft; this could not be moved, consequently it was not possible to examine the shaft in detail. The pump which lifts the water worked well without any priming. There appeared to be no shortage of water.

Foul drainage is conducted away to the north side of the house. A sample of water taken in 1959 for bacteriological examination gave an unsatisfactory result. The occupants have been asked to boil the water.

The nearest public main supply is at Range Lane, 400 yards distant.

The Bungalow, Ashton's Lane, Formby

The lane in which the house stands is at present unmade and houses are being erected on the south side. (The closing of this road has been the subject of a Public Local Inquiry.)

The house is set well back from the old lane.

The well, which is of the shallow type, is about nine feet deep to the bottom of the shaft, which has been lined with brown glazed earthenware pipes 24 inches in diameter; the top is bricked round and gathered over to form a rectangular opening about one foot square, covered by a wooden lid.

Water in the well was turbid at the time of inspection and there was about five feet depth of water. A sample taken in 1959 for bacteriological examination was satisfactory.

NOTE: This house will shortly be connected to the extended public water main.

Lark Hill Farm, Wicks Lane

The well from which water is obtained is situated under the living room floor and the only way access may be gained to the shaft is by taking up this floor. A pump, which stands outside in the yard, is connected to the shaft. No serious shortage of water is experienced.

A cesspool, which receives all foul drainage, is situated well away from the dwelling. This cesspool is emptied by the tenant, who also has to empty and dispose of the contents of the dustbin as well as an outside pail closet.

The nearest public main from which a supply of water can be taken is in Lark Hill Lane, 400 yards distant.

The sample taken in 1959 for bacteriological examination gave a doubtful result. There should be more samples taken from this source of supply.

Lark Hill Cottages, Lark Hill Lane

Four cottages in a good state of repair with an average of three occupants each.

The water supply is drawn from a shallow well which is at the front of the property; it is five feet deep and three feet in diameter. The internal surface of the shaft is cylindrical and has been made smooth by a rendering of cement composition. The surrounding surface area of ground at the head of the well has been similarly rendered to an extent of nine feet across to carry rain water from the manhole. A new semi-rotary pump is fitted near the top of the well and a protecting wooden box has been provided.

Foul drainage is collected into cesspools well to the rear of the block of dwellings.

Improvements to this well were carried out about three years ago at the request of the District Council. At that time the Southport and District Water Board's estimate of cost for the laying of a 3" main to the premises was £1,350. A guarantee of one-eighth of cost for 12 years would be required if the main is installed.

A sample of the water taken in 1959 for bacteriological examination gave a satisfactory result.

16 and 17, North Moss Cottages (formerly Railway Cottages)

Two isolated brick cottages, originally supplied with water by delivery from the Railway Company. Now they are supplied solely by the delivery of water in disused milk churns by a farmer who owns the dwellings.

Rain water is collected in tanks but it is only fit and used for washing purposes.

The occupiers complained that the amount of drinking water delivered to them is not sufficient for their ordinary requirements.

Mains water could be provided by laying a pipe to a water main which supplied a former R.A.F. camp some 600 yards distant.

These houses have none of the ordinary amenities which the average house possesses and they are not in a good state of repair. There are pail closets which the tenants have to empty, no proper drainage system for waste water, and the District Council do not collect household refuse. In these circumstances, therefore, the District Council should give consideration to the degree of fitness of the dwellings for human habitation.

NOTE: The owner of these houses has been interviewed during the present inspection of the district. He is desirous of providing a proper water supply to the property and also wishes to consider improving them by a scheme under the provisions of the Housing Act, subject to grant aid.

The Bungalow, Albert Road, Formby

Water is drawn from a well situated at the rear of the house. The shaft, about nine feet deep, is lined with glazed earthenware pipes. There is evidence that sand is washed down the shaft, which should be extended so that the top is well above the surrounding ground level, and a proper cover should also be provided. An electric pump situated within the house raises the water from the well to a storage tank in the kitchen. It is understood that there is a shortage of water at times. The water is not subjected to treatment before use.

A water closet used by the occupants is flushed from a rain water storage tank, though when rain water is in short supply the closet has to be flushed by means of water carried in a bucket. The associated cesspool is emptied by a hand pump onto land surrounding the house.

NOTE: It would seem desirable that water closets should not be approved unless there is an adequate supply of water for flushing.

At the time of visiting this house, a sample of water was drawn from the tap in the kitchen by the Public Health Inspector, and later it was submitted for bacteriological examination; the result was satisfactory.

General

Wherever possible, supplies of water from the public mains should be secured to the afore-mentioned houses.

All dwellings which have to rely upon private sources of supply should be regularly visited and the drainage etc. examined in order that any pollution might be detected. The regular routine of sampling the several sources of supply should continue and it is recommended that in taking the samples, the advice contained in the Ministry's Report on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies" be carefully followed. The number of samples taken from each private source of supply should be increased and samples should also be submitted for chemical examination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Reference to the Special Report dated the 16th July, 1924:-

"The completion of the sewerage scheme is the most urgent sanitary requirement and in the circumstances it is probable that a yearly programme of sewer extensions, designed to complete the scheme in a few years, is the most practical policy."

By October, 1926, 1,377 yards of sewers, including 325 yards of 21" main sewer, had been laid in existing roads at a cost of £5,259, whilst in new roads where building development had taken place a further 537 yards of sewers were laid, in addition to the sewerage of the District Council's housing estate.

As a result of these operations, 114 houses, formerly drained to cesspools, etc., were connected to the sewer.

The separate system of sewerage has been adopted. The sewers are constructed of earthenware pipes varying in diameter from 6" to 21". These are ventilated at various points by ventilating shafts.

In his report for the year 1958, the Medical Officer of Health states:-

"Main drainage is provided for 85% of the houses in the district." "The sewers discharge by gravitation into settling tanks with an outfall into the River estuary."

During the present inspection of the district, it has been found that, generally speaking, development is limited in the unsewered parts of the district, though in the eastern area and in the adjoining West Lancashire Rural District Parish of Altcar, housing development is most active and new sewers are being laid as building proceeds. The whole of this development of about 300 houses drains into the Formby Urban District Council's sewers by agreement under which payment is made to the Urban District Council at a rate of 9d. in the pound of rateable value of the property draining to the Urban District Council's sewers.

Reference to the particulars relative to sanitary accommodation in the district serves to indicate that there are estimated to be 200 conservancy closets and 400 cesspools or septic tanks still in use in the district.

It is understood that the District Council do not consider that septic tanks and cesspools provide satisfactory means of disposal of drainage from new buildings except in those cases where, having regard to the remoteness of the site, it is not likely that sewers will become available. In such cases, the District Council require to be satisfied that the proposed septic tanks are of adequate capacity and capable of properly treating and disposing of sewage.

During the five year period from 1954 to 1958 inclusive, of the 456 dwellings erected, 28 were connected to approved septic tanks, the remainder having been connected to the public sewer.

In March, 1959, the District Council submitted to the County Council a report prepared by a Consulting Engineer in connection with the proposed improvement of the District Council's sewage disposal works at an estimated cost of £91,820, exclusive of Engineers' fees. The scheme envisages full treatment of sewage to standards acceptable by the Mersey River Board before discharge into the River Alt, and the works would include a screening chamber, detritus tank, a pump house from which sewage would be lifted to the sedimentation tanks, three filter beds, humus tanks and storm tanks. Provision is to be made for sludge disposal.

It is anticipated that the sewage works having been improved and extended, the sewerage of the unsewered areas of the district will be proceeded with. A scheme has been prepared by a Consulting Engineer for consideration by the Urban District Council.

Considerable difficulties have to be overcome in the laying of sewers by reason of unstable ground. In almost every instance, excavated cuttings have to be shuttered and de-watered during the period of laying both sewers and drains, and in consequence it appears to be the practice for houses to be drained in combinations of two or more buildings; agreements are entered into for the protection of owners against difficulties which might subsequently arise if these drains become choked or require repairs.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The following table shows the position in 1958 as compared with the year 1924, when the first inspection of the district was made:-

	1924	1958
No. of houses with pail closets	531	189
No. of houses with privy closets	149	-
No. of houses with water closets draining to cesspools or septic tanks	427	383
No. of houses with water closets draining to public sewers	558	2,627
No. of water closets in the whole of the district	985	3,760
No. of inhabited houses	1,426	3,199

During the five year period 1954 to 1958 inclusive, the following closet conversions were carried out:-

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Pail closets converted to water carriage system	-	20	10	3	9
Cesspools or septic tanks abolished and houses connected to main sewers	-	-	-	22	23

It is understood that statutory notices have been served requiring the conversion of pail closets at all premises where a sewer is available, and at the time of inspection 13 such notices were outstanding.

The District Council have elected to allow contractors to carry out the work of conversion, and in consequence one half the cost of conversion will be met by the Local Authority, subject always to their prior approval of the lowest of two tenders.

Testing of Drainage Systems

This duty is carried out by the Public Health Inspector wherever new drainage is laid or renewal of existing systems may be involved. Mr. Benson is usually assisted by one of the District Council's workmen.

The smoke tests are applied to all new and relaid pipelines. An Eclipse smoke testing machine is employed to generate the smoke and pump it under pressure as required.

Tests observed were carried out with care and efficiency. A good relationship appears to exist between the Inspector and drainage contractors and all the pipelines seen during tests had been laid very efficiently, reflecting a high standard of workmanship.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The whole of this service is under the control of Mr. Harold P. Turner, the Engineer and Surveyor to the District Council.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse

Collection

There are in use within the district some 3,230 dustbins, together with 188 pails, most of which are emptied weekly.

For the purposes of refuse collection, the following vehicles are used:-

- 1 Shelvoke and Drewry 16 cubic yard fore and aft tipping wagon,
- 1 Shelvoke and Drewry 10 cubic yard side loading wagon.

A gang of six men and driver work with the larger container. The 10 cubic yard collector is used part-time on house refuse collection and the remainder of the normal working time is absorbed in clearing refuse from camp sites, shop refuse and waste paper collection.

Trade refuse is collected on the basis of free collection for shops. A charge is made where large quantities of trade refuse has to be loaded and disposed of.

Provision of Dustbins

These are provided by owners and/or occupiers of houses and other premises, and may be purchased from the District Council or ironmongers and stores in the area; British Standard Specification type bins are mostly used. Where necessary the Public Health Inspector communicates with the person responsible if defective bins are not replaced within a reasonable period.

During 1958, no statutory notices were served requiring dustbins to be provided; preliminary notice forms appear to have had the desired effect.

Disposal

At the time the inspection took place, refuse collected was being disposed of at a site in North Moss Lane on low lying land.

Two men are employed on a full time basis to deal with the depositing of loads of refuse and also the baling of salvaged paper. The baling press is housed in a shed at the tip and is hand operated. The type of refuse collected is difficult to dispose of because of its extremely light composition, being mostly of a fine ash content and paper, with very little other material to assist in binding it together. Refuse is tipped and raked out as necessary to give a depth of about six feet. The procedure adopted is to allow the deposit to be consolidated by wagons running over it and at intervals of a fortnight or so a bulldozer is used to further consolidate the refuse by compression. Periodically, covering material is deposited on the flat surface of the refuse and bulldozed evenly over the area recently tipped. Despite this, the seagulls disturb the refuse and create favourable conditions for the breeding of flies and for the starting of fires in the refuse.

It would seem desirable that consolidation by mechanical means such as the bulldozer should be constantly practised; this would tend to assist in controlling the type of refuse handled and lengthen the life of the tipping area. It is understood that this question is receiving consideration by the appropriate Committee.

It was noted that the water which the workmen use for drinking purposes is transported daily in a large iron kettle to the tip. In view of the risk of infections arising from the handling of waste materials containing offensive matter, glass, etc., it is recommended that an adequate piped water supply, together with suitable washing facilities, should be made available at the tip. (A water main is laid to the nearby disused camp from which a supply of water could be drawn.)

Street and Gully Cleansing

Streets are swept by hand. A gang of three to four men is employed for this purpose and the sweepings are loaded into an electrically propelled Horbelt vehicle. Loads of sweepings are deposited at the refuse tip.

Street gullies are emptied manually by means of a scoop. The material thus taken from gullies is deposited with house refuse.

Cesspools

The District Council do not undertake the emptying of this type of receptacle for foul drainage from premises not connected to the sewer or to a proper septic tank.

In view of the number of cesspools at present in use in the district and the interval of time which must elapse before new sewers are available, together with the amount of pollution in watercourses due to discharge of overflows, it is felt that the District Council might give consideration to the advisability of using a mechanically operated vehical especially constructed for the efficient and cleanly emptying of cesspools. Such an apparatus could provide a service which would be of considerable public health value until a complete system of sewers becomes available.

A detailed investigation of the means of disposal of sewage from all houses not connected to a public sewer would be of value in assessing the efficiency of septic tanks from which effluents are discharged to watercourses, and, in the case of cesspools, as to the need for periodic emptying.

Ditches and Watercourses

In the interests of uniformity, for public health reasons and efficient drainage, the District Council carries out the work of cleaning out and grading of subsidiary watercourses in the area.

When the sewerage of the district is completed, most of the pollution of watercourses should cease.

At Suttons Bridge, within the Urban District, the watercourse showed evidence of considerable pollution. This watercourse flows from the direction of the Formby bye-pass road under which the water is conveyed by piped culvert from the direction of Deansgate Lane via Moss Side to Suttons Bridge.

Other watercourses examined showed varying degrees of pollution by domestic sewage.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

These are situated at the Park in Duke Street, and in Brows Lane respectively.

There are no public conveniences in Freshfield, and, although there are many hundreds of visitors to the beach at Formby and Freshfield, no provision has been made for sanitary accommodation except by the owners of cafes. These beaches are privately owned but are free to visitors. The lack of proper sanitary accommodation on these beaches is bound to give rise to the commission of nuisances in the adjoining sand dunes.

The Park, Duke Street

These conveniences are constructed in brickwork. There are two blocks at the east end and west end of the park respectively. All are well screened by tress.

That at the east end may be approached from the park and from Duke Street. At night time the approach paths are lit by electricity.

The men's accommodation consists of a five stall urinal, together with two water closets. The interior walls are of glazed brickwork to a height of 4' 6". For ladies three water closets are provided. Good natural lighting and electric lighting is available.

Neither of the sexes are provided with wash hand basins and water supply.

Taps are provided for the purpose of washing down the premises.

A workman is detailed to keep all the premises clean.

At the western end near to the bowling green the conveniences provide for men a two stall urinal and one water closet, and a wash hand basin with water laid on is available in the adjoining bowling pavillion. Accommodation for ladies is in a separate building at the opposite end of the bowling green and comprises two water closets.

All the concrete floors were in good condition.

Such defects as existed were mainly the result of vandalism and the Surveyor indicated that these matters would receive attention.

Brows Lane

This convenience consists of a urinal only. It is a brick structure without roof and wanting in maintenance. It adjoins a local club's football ground.

The flushing tank was out of order. The stalls were coated with a deposit of urine and were smelling offensively. There was defective pointing of brickwork.

Land at the rear and side of this building is used for deposits of waste matter and requires properly fencing off to prevent further nuisance.

Consideration should be given to replacing this structure with a modern type convenience.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There are three small industrial chimneys in the district, namely:-

The Formby Laundry in Liverpool Road - Oil fired automatic control.

Messrs. H. Woodward, Formby Bye-pass Road - Hand fired boiler.

The new County Council Fire Station - Oil fired boiler for heating purposes.

During 1958, 42 observations were made and it is encouraging to note that in no instance was there any contravention.

The Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report for that year states that a considerable smoke nuisance arose when a road surface heating and planing machine was in use during the re-surfacing of parts of County roads.

The District Council installed a standard type deposit gauge on top of a building at the rear of the Council Offices during September, 1958, and arrangements have been made for the contents of receptacles to be examined by the County Analyst on payment of a fee.

Since installation, the following results have been obtained:-

Monthly Deposit	1958			
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Water (inches rainfall)	3.86	3.03	1.76	3.35
pH Value	4.6	6.0	3.7	4.2
Total water - insoluble matter tons per square mile	9.27	5.99	1.85	3.15
Total water - soluble matter	10.63	8.38	4.30	8.28
Total solids - tons per square mile	19.90	14.37	6.15	11.43

SHOPS ACT, 1950

There are 140 shops in the district, and for purposes connected with the above Act relative to sanitation and welfare, which is the joint responsibility of the District Council and the County Council, the following visits were made during the years 1954 to 1958:-

<u>Year</u>			<u>No. of Visits Made</u>
1954	...	...	95
1955	...	...	74
1956	...	...	39
1957	...	...	36
1958	...	...	70

In order to avoid duplication of visits, and by arrangement with the County Council, inspections are carried out mainly by the Public Health Inspector, the County Council paying an agreed fee to the Local Authority for this service.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

Guild Hall, Church Road, Formby.
Victoria Hall, Timms Lane, Formby.

These premises, together with the halls attached to places of worship, are provided with adequate sanitary accommodation for both sexes.

PUBLIC BATHS AND SWIMMING POOLS

There are no such establishments available to the general public.

One residential school has an open air swimming pool. Continuous circulation, filtration and chlorination of the water is in operation. Samples are taken regularly during the summer months and results have been consistently good.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are six licensed hotels in the district. In no case is lead piping used for beer lines, stainless steel piping being mostly in use. Other premises use plastic tubing.

Sanitary accommodation is satisfactory.

The Public Health Inspector states that care is taken in the washing of glasses etc. used and adequate sink units with ample hot and cold water supplies have been provided. The standard of hygiene is good.

NOTE: Section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, empowers a Local Authority to require the provision of proper sanitary conveniences at inns, public houses, beer houses, refreshment houses and places of public entertainment.

As these premises are also subject to control by the licensing justices, it is usual for the two bodies to co-operate in securing improved sanitary accommodation.

PAVING OF STREETS

St. Annes Road has recently been drained and surfaced. There are, however, a number of roads in the district which are not drained, paved and repairable by the inhabitants at large.

No doubt the District Council will be giving consideration to this matter when the sewerage of certain roads is completed.

FACTORIES

The following were visited:-

Formby Laundry, Liverpool Road (25 employees, mostly females)

Mains water is provided for all purposes and sanitary appliances, together with waste water, discharge into drains connected to the sewer.

Closet accommodation - One water closet is provided for each sex. These are situated in the yard at the rear of the premises and are constructed in one block adjacent to each other, facing onto the open yard with no screening of doorways one from the other or from the yard. There is no lighting to illuminate this yard during winter periods.

Proper screens and lighting should be provided.

The steam is raised in an oil fired horizontal boiler. An automatic device cuts off fuel oil if the furnace flame is for any reason extinguished. The boiler appears to be adequate for the needs of the laundry, and there was no noticeable emission of dark smoke.

The premises were found to be very clean.

Messrs. Gardner Burroughs & Co. Ltd., (Tool Handle Manufacturers), Security Works, Liverpool Road (about 60 persons employed - 27 males & 30 females at the time of visiting the works)

Mains water is provided for all purposes; sanitary accommodation and waste water is carried to the sewer through an efficient system of drains. DISCHARGE

Closet accommodation - Four closets are provided for the female operatives and two for males, with two urinals in addition. Conveniences are also provided for the office staff in the administrative block, one closet for each of the sexes. Wash hand basins are also provided in each of the toilets, a commendable practice.

Messrs. R. & J. Barton & Sons Ltd., (Joinery Works and Civil Engineering Contractors), Altcar Road (18 men and 12 women are employed)

The premises are provided with mains water. The water closets are adequate in number and they drain to a septic tank.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The Formby Urban District Council is one of the authorities to which functions under the above Order have been delegated by the County Council. The District Council assumed responsibility for the administration of the Order on the 1st June, 1959, and the Public Health Inspector is the designated officer appointed to supervise the carrying out of the requirements of the Order, which specifies that:-

"Any person who having in his possession more than four weaned pigs or fifty head of poultry and who collects or receives waste foods for consumption on his own premises by such pigs or poultry must have been licensed in respect of any plant or equipment used for the sterilising of such waste food."

The following seven premises have been licensed for the purpose of boiling waste food to be fed to pigs, poultry, etc.:-

- H. Snowden, Brook Farm, Moss Side, Formby.
- T. Aughton, The Kennels, Southport Road, Formby.
- T. Houghton, Sandilands, Wicks Lane, Formby.
- W. Rimmer, Bang Braids Farm, Range Lane, Formby.
- H.F. Phillips, Kenton Wood, Brewery Lane, Formby.
- M. Cockburn, Alty's Farm, Marsh Brow, Formby.
- C. Baldwin & Son, Southport Road, Formby.

Premises have been inspected as follows:-

Alty's Farm, Marsh Brow, Formby

A vertical boiler is in use. Steam is injected into the food contained in wooden vats, where it is cooked.

Conditions were fairly clean at the time of inspection.

There is no sewer at these premises. The tanks used for receiving drainage require considerable overhauling and proper provision is needed to further purify material which is pumped onto land after partial treatment in the tanks.

Brook Farm, Moss Side, Formby

The collected waste food is cooked for two hours in a set boiler (a boiler approximately half spherical in shape set in brickwork with a fire box underneath it). The setting of this boiler was defective at the time of inspection. The brick floor was defective and the waste food bins were not provided with lids.

Warren Farm, Southport Road, Formby

Two steam boilers of the vertical type were in use to provide steam to twelve swill boiling vats. All the vats were found to be of galvanised iron. The floor of the boiling compartment was of good concrete.

It was noted during the visits to the above premises that whilst, generally speaking, control of the waste food processing was good, there was a lack of attention to maintenance of cleanliness of the outside surfaces of containers and steam feed pipes. It is essential to prevent fly nuisance and subsequent infection of cooked waste food that there should be maintained the constant washing down of pipes, outside of tanks and floors to remove any food splashed upon or which may have boiled over the sides of containers.

All containers of raw and cooked food should have properly fitted lids to prevent the access of flies to prepared food.

Some control over the emission of odours arising from cooking processes at the larger establishments may have to be exercised in the future; it would appear that a totally enclosed system of cooking could be operated without the production of any of the noticeable effluvia associated with the open process. Such a system might well be more reliable since the heat essential for complete sterilisation of the waste food could be better and more economically applied.

More time will need to be spent upon the inspection and supervision of these premises in future to ensure that the provisions of this important Order are complied with.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE)
PROVISIONS ACT, 1956

The provisions of this Act are intended to secure:-

Section 3, Subsection (1) and Section 5 provide that a Local Authority may require the provision of sanitary accommodation on agricultural holdings and the maintenance of these in a clean condition.

A few establishments employ additional workers during the asparagus season and nursery planting time.

Pail closets placed in wooden huts are provided in the more rural surroundings, whilst at nurseries additional water closets are available for use.

These agricultural premises are inspected regularly during the periods when additional workers are employed, that is April to September.

Twenty-four survey inspections of agricultural units were made in 1958 and as a result two notices were served requiring provision of appropriate closet accommodation; the notices were complied with.

CAMPS AND CAMPING SITES

There are within the district three main sites which are licensed for the period 1st March to 31st October each year. These are at Formby Point, Lifeboat Road, Formby, Pine Tree Cafe Site, Freshfield, and Formby House Farm.

The District Council have prepared an approved Schedule of Conditions which are attached to each licence.

The site owners also have rules for good conduct of sites, which appear to have the co-operation of site users.

The District Council do not favour the use of these sites for caravans occupied as permanent dwellings and only one site has two caravans which are so used. Each one is occupied by a lady living alone and they have adequate facilities for water supply, sanitary accommodation and disposal of waste water. It is understood that these caravans are licensed for periods which correspond to the period specified in the Town Planning Consent.

Refuse is collected from licensed caravan sites by the Council's cleansing service on a weekly basis.

Inspections have been made of the larger sites:-

Fermby Point

This site is situated on the western side of a pine covered ridge in close proximity to the sea front which has an extensive sandy beach. To the north and east sides there are belts of pine trees, whilst on the southern and western boundaries are sandhills extending to the beach. The area occupied by the caravans is well laid out and extends over several acres of grassland, which is well tended. A good cinder-covered road gives access from the tarmac road leading down to the sea shore. Within the curtilages of the site the road becomes a ring road to facilitate approach to the various groups of caravans.

Provision is made for 150 caravans which are only occupied for the period of the site licence. During the winter months caravans are removed and stored. The caravans inspected were of the larger type, very well maintained, well spaced from each other as a precaution against fire and to reduce interference with personal comfort of occupants.

For each two caravans there has been provided a soakaway for slop water; these consist of a 12 inch glazed stoneware sewer pipe standing on end with the socket uppermost. The pipe is embedded well into the ground to conduct slop water to a thick clinker bed previously laid at a convenient depth under the surface. There was no unpleasant odour from any of these contrivances.

Drinking water is supplied from five cold water stand pipes so placed on the site as to afford an ample supply of water from the public mains for the occupants of vans.

A sufficient number of galvanised dustbins are provided for refuse. Other bins are provided for waste food.

A sanitary accommodation block has been constructed on the south-western side of the site. This consists of a structure pleasantly constructed in rustic brick and comprises five water closets in the ladies section, where there is also a calor gas heated incinerator provided to assist personal hygiene. In the men's section there are four closets and spacious urinal accommodation constructed in glazed stoneware. The tenant of each caravan is given a key to a closet, each of which is kept permanently locked.

The owner of the site has provided a caravan which is set out as a general store where only pre-packed articles of food are sold. These premises were exceptionally clean. A pleasant feature of this shop is that it is quite unobtrusive as from the outside it presents the appearance of an ordinary caravan.

Pine Tree Caravan Park and Cafe

The caravans are stationed on a site in the shelter provided by a group of sandhills on the foreshore at Freshfield and near the cafe where the owner of the site and cafe provides meals. Again there is a pleasant and extensive sandy beach.

Quite recently, the owner has provided a supply of water from the public mains by laying almost three quarters of a mile of "Alkathene" one inch diameter pipe from Victoria Road, Freshfield. The use of well water has now been discontinued at the cafe and for caravans. In addition, mains water will now be stored in a large elevated metal tank which is provided with a cover constructed of boards one inch in thickness. (The tank was being cleaned out at the time of inspection.) The water will be distributed from here to four holiday chalets through an existing system of half inch

iron pipes to be used for the flushing of water closets in the chalets, the two water closets at the cafe and a new sanitary accommodation block attached to the caravan site, where six water closets are provided for ladies and four water closets and urinal accommodation for men. There are no chemical closets in use.

Sufficient galvanised iron dustbins are provided and these are emptied by the District Council's cleansing service weekly. Three bins are available for use at the cafe and nine for caravan occupants.

Sewage is received and treated in septic tanks which pass the effluent through sand before it drains away into the sub-soil.

Formby House Caravan Site

This site is on land adjoining Formby House Farm and is situated in two districts, the County Borough of Southport and the Urban District of Formby. A pleasant site sheltered by pine trees and near to the Formby bye-pass road.

So far as Formby is concerned, the twelve caravans which stand upon the part of the site which is within the Urban District are licensed for the period 1st March to 31st October annually.

The sanitary accommodation block is within the County Borough area and they exercise control over it. Water closets and washing facilities, which drain to a sewer, are provided, and it is understood that they are adequate.

Town's water from the mains of the Southport and District Water Board is laid on to this site and refuse is collected weekly.

Bang Braids Farm Site

Here there are two caravans used as permanent dwellings and four licensed from the 1st March to the 31st October. The caravans were found to be of good type in a sound condition.

The sanitary accommodation in this case consists of pail closets; dustbins and pails are emptied weekly by the Council's cleansing service.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

HOUSING

Reference to Special Report No. 66

The estimated numbers of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1924 and 1958 are shown on page 3.

The following are brief particulars of defective conditions at some of the more unsatisfactory houses inspected in 1924:-

Duke Street - A row of three old thatched cottages in a dilapidated condition. Each contains living room and two bedrooms on ground floor, and two of the houses have sculleries; one house has a disused bedroom on the first floor. The walls are bulging, broken in parts, and damp near the footings; thatch decayed and roof leaking, interior of roof over living room of centre cottage sagging and broken; floors of two of the living rooms out of repair and below level of ground abutting rear wall; several doors out of repair. All the bedrooms in the centre house are less than eight feet square. The ruins of a cottage abut one end of the row. Two of the pail closets are in a dilapidated condition, and one house is without refuse accommodation.

Demolition Orders made.

Marsh Farm Cottage - A one-storey cottage, containing living room, scullery, pantry and two bedrooms. Only one external door; windows at front of house have had the opening sheets fastened up; deficient in ventilation; roof leaks, eavesgutters defective, portions missing; walls open-jointed in places; floors of living room and scullery out of repair. Water supply is from a dip well situated in a hollow and liable to receive surface drainage. The privy midden is about eleven yards from the well.

Closed upon undertaking not to re-let.

Hogshill Lane - Three pairs of semi-detached cottages. Each contains three rooms on ground floor and two bedrooms on first floor. Walls damp in places. Several of the floors and windows are out of repair; plastering broken; roofs of two of the sculleries leak, and the eavesgutter to one broken; four of the sink waste pipes defective, and the drains at three houses are blocked. Most of the arches to the front ground floor windows are broken. Two of the closet pails leak; there is no accommodation for refuse, and sewage lodges near cesspools.

Two of these cottages have been reconditioned by owner-occupiers.

Three others have applied for grants to recondition the houses.

Paradise Lane - First pair of semi-detached houses; each contains three living rooms and three bedrooms. The ground floors are damp, and dampness rising in the walls. The roof leaks; eavesgutters defective, portion missing, one downspout broken; window pointing broken away in places. One of the pail closets is dilapidated.

These houses are now in a good state of repair.

Moss Side. Swift's Cottage - A one-storied thatched cottage, containing living room and two bedrooms. The only external door and the windows which open are on the same side of the house; deficient in through ventilation; walls bulging, gable wall damp; thatch decayed, roof leaks; floors below level of the ground abutting the rear wall. Tap in outhouse, no sink. Drain blocked.

Substandard dwelling.
No sewer available.

Nos. 47 and 49, Rosemary Lane - Two old thatched cottages. No. 47 contains living room, bedroom, and pantry, all on ground floor. No through ventilation; only one external door; rear window is out of repair, opening sheet fast. Floors and lower portions of walls damp and plaster broken. Tap, but no sink. No. 49 contains four rooms on the ground floor and two small bedrooms in the cross section of the roof. Only one external door; rear windows glazed solid; floors of living room and pantry out of repair; stairs dilapidated and dangerous; walls bulging; back downspout missing. Tap, but no sink. No drains.

Demolished.

General

In the Special Report No. 66, reference was made to the fact that with the exception of about 80 terraced houses, all were detached or of the semi-detached type, and that there were in 1924 about 530 houses in the district which could be classified as being of the working class type.

The number of dwellings with thatched roofs is now very much reduced, and only a few remain.

There is no congestion of houses in any part of the district, although one or two instances of bad arrangement were noted during the present inspection. No doubt attention will be given to these in dealing with the future housing programme. It is estimated that at least one half of the houses in the district are less than 40 years old.

Back-to-Back Houses, etc.

There are no back-to-back houses in the district.

Prevailing Defects

It may still be said that in the main houses are reasonably well maintained, but not all repairs appear to have been carried out so as to produce a good result. Some were noticeably of a temporary patching nature; in such instances adherence to a reasonable specification of work should be required.

Continued systematic house to house inspections are considered to be a most important duty of the Public Health Inspector.

The following properties were visited:-

Moss Cottages, Moss Side (three dwellings)

Old brick structures having thatched roofs.

The internal walls are damp throughout and brickwork has deteriorated.

There are pail closets, and the slop water drains to a cesspool.

The properties are generally in a poor condition.

Former Father Berry's Homes, off Albert Road

These two houses were not in a good state of repair and appeared to be unstable structures held together with tie bars. They require a detailed inspection.

The Bungalow, Albert Road, Formby

This dwelling stands upon an isolated site amongst sand dunes which afford a certain amount of shelter from winds. The walls are of weather-board on the outside, with brickwork on the inside to form a cavity wall; the internal surfaces of walls are rendered with a cement composition. Foundations are of brickwork. The roof, which is of wooden construction, is felt covered on the outside; there is no ceiling on the inside of the house. The accommodation consists of a lounge, living room, a kitchen and three bedrooms. The occupants comprise two adults and two young children.

There was evidence of dampness inside the house and this appears to be due in some degree to condensation on the cement rendered walls, with contributory chilling from the lack of insulation in the wooden roof.

The structure is only in fair condition; it is understood that the house is not to be resold and will be demolished when the lease, which is of short duration, is terminated.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided with the flushing cistern being fed from a rain water tank of about 40 gallons capacity, because the house has no supply of water from the public main. Drainage is to a cesspool at some distance from the house and remote from the well, which affords a supply of drinking water. The cesspool is emptied onto surrounding ground by means of a lift and force pump.

51, Liverpool Road

A cottage estimated to be at least 100 years old, which is constructed in brickwork with a blue slate roof, and found to be generally in a poor condition. Dampness is prevalent in the walls. The house is connected to the public sewer.

5, Priest House Lane (dated on wall tablet 1613)

Appears to be a brick structure which has been covered with pebble-dashing. The roof is of thatch. The main walls show evidence of instability and dampness. Window areas are very small in size. The whole building was found to be in poor condition.

Chapel House Farm

This dwelling was found to be constructed in brickwork and had a thatched roof. The structure was showing signs of instability. Ceilings of rooms were very low and the window areas small.

This house could be connected to a sewer but is not considered to be suitable for continued use as a dwelling.

Nos. 8 to 42, Watchyard Lane (ten pairs of houses)

These houses are of the cottage type, brick built with blue slate roofage. The structures are reasonably sound, although some dampness and disrepair was evident.

The houses are not at present connected to a public sewer, but it is expected that a sewer will be provided soon. When this has been done, the property might well be considered suitable for improvement on grant aid and be made reasonably good dwellings.

Nos. 66 to 80, Watchyard Lane (four pairs of houses about 70 years old)

These houses are very similar in type to the ones referred to above.

Following the service of notice upon the owner, an undertaking was accepted by the District Council by which the owner is to repair the property within a period of six months dating from March, 1960.

This property was being repaired at the time of inspection. The owner was himself carrying out some of the work.

Housing Act, 1936, Parts II and III Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Section 1

Under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Local Authorities were required to conduct surveys of dwelling houses and submit to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government proposals for dealing with unfit dwellings over a period of five years.

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local Authority's
area ... 2,850

Part 1. The Total Problem

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 19
- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in
(i) ... 5

Part 2. Orders already made, etc.

- (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority ... Nil

- (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Ministry but have not yet become operative ... Nil

Part 3. Action in the First Five Years

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years ... Nil
- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister ... Nil
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation ... Nil
- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years ... Nil
- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 19

The Formby Urban District Council submitted the above programme enumerating some 19 properties which it was considered merited attention as being unfit for human habitation, and these were dealt with in the following manner:-

21, Duke Street	- Closed. Demolition Order made.
23, Duke Street	- Still occupied. Subject of a Demolition Order.
25, Duke Street	- Closed. Demolition Order made.
27, Duke Street	- Demolished.
Chapel House, Priest House Lane	- Demolished.
88, Watchyard Lane	- Closed. Demolition Order made.
2, Smithy Brow	<div> <div> Part of a row of houses left for a support to remaining houses. </div> <div> { } </div> </div>
Chestnut Cottage	
	- { Closed upon an undertaking by owner not to re-let.
No. 1, Old Mill Lane	- Demolished.
Old Mill Farm	- Demolished.

Victoria Cottage, Gores Lane	- Demolished.
59, 73, Liverpool Road	- Demolished.
61, Liverpool Road	- Closed. Demolition Order made.
5, 7, 9, Ravenmecls Lane	- Demolition Orders made.
Marsh Farm Cottage	- Closed upon an undertaking not to re-let.
Cottage, School Lane	- Demolished.

The following dwellings have been dealt with in addition to those enumerated in the first programme, mostly as the result of informal action by the Local Authority:-

Hey Cottage, Paradise Lane	- Demolished.
Bellan Cottage, Long Lane	- "
14, Phillips Lane	- "
The Fold, Green Lane	- "
Cottage, Green Lane	- "
Lowood, Andrews Lane	- "
Bungalow, Foster Road	- "
52/54, Duke Street	- Demolition Order made.
56/60, Duke Street	- " " "
Mariton Farm, Deansgate Lane	- Premises vacant.
Moss Side Farm Cottage, Moss Side	- " "

The five year period expires at the end of 1960 and the Ministry have in a circular, No. 2/60, suggested that Local Authorities should now, after assessing the progress made in dealing with those properties included in the first report, consider whether there are any more houses which require similar attention.

The Medical Officer of Health has prepared a report in order to meet this suggestion and it is understood that the Health Committee of the Council is considering the contents; recommendations will no doubt be made to the District Council outlining the action deemed necessary.

Overcrowding

Few cases of overcrowding appear to have been discovered or reported, the District Council apparently being able to deal with such cases as may have arisen.

Provision of New Houses

Since the end of the war, 181 permanent houses and 16 flats have been erected by the Local Authority, and 566 houses and flats by other bodies or persons.

Dwellings provided and owned by the District Council are situated on the following sites:-

<u>Site</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings</u>
Marsh Brow	4
Watchyard Lane	16
Whitehouse Lane	34
New Road	32
Alderson Crescent	50
Andrews Lane	12
Queens Road	6
Lonsdale Road	12
King's Close	14
Duke Street	4
Kirklake Road	4
Cheapside	5
Foster Road (Sealand Close)	16
Jubilee Road	2
Royal Site	72
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	283
	<hr/>

Housing of Persons suffering from Tuberculosis

In considering applications for Council owned houses, additional points are awarded to applicants where a tubercular patient is a member of the household.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for the supervision of the production of milk in the district.

There are ten farms producing milk and of these six produce Tuberculin Tested milk and four produce undesignated milk.

The County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, are responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas)(No. 2) Order, 1955, which is in force in the Urban District.

The District Council retain the responsibility for the registration of distributors of milk and the supervision of premises used by distributors, other than dairies attached to farms, within the district.

During the year 1958, the following registrations were made:-

Sterilised bottled milk	- 5 dealers
Pasteurised bottled milk	9 dealers
Tuberculin Tested bottled milk	3 dealers

Supplementary licences were issued to five dealers in respect of milk: one for the sale of Sterilised milk, one for Pasteurised milk and three for Tuberculin Tested milk.

Milk Sampling

The following details are given of milk samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year 1958:-

No. of Samples	Grade of Milk	Test	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
11	Untreated	T.B.	11	-
11	Untreated	Methylene blue	11	-
17	Pasteurised	Methylene blue	15	2
17	Pasteurised	Phosphatase	17	-
1	Sterilised	Turbidity	1	-

Ice-Cream

Twenty-eight premises were registered in 1958 for the sale of ice-cream, With the exception of one premises, all sell pre-packed varieties manufactured outside the district. One shopkeeper manufacturers ice-cream using a "complete cold mix" which only requires the addition of water.

During the year, 25 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results are given below:-

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test. Period of Reduction	Grade
13	Not before 4 hours	1
10	3 to 4 hours	2
1	1 hour	3
1	-	4

The standard adopted is that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Slaughtering Establishments

There is no such establishment in the district, meat being normally supplied from Liverpool or Southport, where there are large slaughtering establishments.

Food Hygiene Bye-laws

Bye-laws for securing the observance of sanitary conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, which were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, since repealed but re-enacted under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are in force in the district. This Act, together with Regulations made thereunder, has extended the power of the Council in regard to the control of food handling.

The Medical Officer of Health, in his Annual Report for the year 1958, comments:-

"There is an increasing awareness, both by the food distributor and the consumer, of the importance of cleanliness in food display, storage and handling."

and:-

"In the confectionery trade, a greater use should be made of serving tongs and protective display units."

Food Hygiene

The following particulars have been extracted from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The number of food premises, by the type of business, in the district at the end of 1958, was:-

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number</u>
General grocers and provision dealers ...	23
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.) ...	10
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.) ...	10
Bakers and/or confectioners ...	7
Fried fish shops ...	3
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. ...	15
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	13
	<hr/> 87 <hr/>

Number of food premises, by type, registered under the Lancashire County Council Acts:-

Type of Business	No. registered at 31st Dec., 1958	No. of inspections of registered premises during the year
Ice-cream	28	50
Manufacturers of sausage, etc.	5	10
Hawkers	4	6

Inspection of Premises

The following premises were visited during the present inspection of the district:-

Cafes and Bakehouses

Pine Tree Cafe, Freshfield - These premises are constructed of wood and have a tongued and grooved board floor, which is kept scrubbed.

Meals served include cold meat and salad, egg on toast, beans on toast, sandwiches and light refreshments.

The refreshment room has twelve tables. There is good natural light from the windows.

In the kitchen, calor gas was being used for cooking. No cooked meats are processed on the premises and it was stated that these are kept at the proprietor's home at night as there is no refrigerator available at the cafe.

All benches, tables and counters were found to be unsuitable for their purpose as they had absorbent surfaces, incapable of being readily cleansed. The sink draining board was of wood and again in a condition as to be not readily cleansed. Floor boards under the counters were dirty and there were three feeding pots said to be provided for the cats. A dirty pair of weighing scales were stated to be used to weigh potatoes for campers.

There was no continuous supply of hot water for washing up and cleansing. The Ascot gas heated water heater was out of order.

The whole of the food preparing section of the premises required a thorough cleansing and bringing up to such a standard as will comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

Rear of Victoria Buildings, Freshfield - This bakehouse is used solely in connection with a confectioners shop in the adjacent Victoria Buildings and was completed about six years ago.

The interior of the brick structure has a red tiled floor in good condition, the ceiling being integral with the concrete slab roof. Walls

are tiled to a height of five feet, above which the wall surface is painted with glass paint. Natural lighting is good from both lantern and side windows. For periods of darkness, fluorescent lighting is available. There are two gas space heaters.

The oven is of the gas heated steam pipe type and a low pressure steam boiler is used in the preparation of Vienna bread; this boiler is also gas heated.

All work benches and tables have castors which enable them to be moved readily when floors, etc., are being cleansed. Each of these tables has a hard wood top of birch or sycamore and these are kept very clean indeed.

Adequate hot water is available from a gas heated geyser and an ample glazed stoneware sink is used for washing small equipment. There was standing in the bakehouse a two compartment gas heated washing-up machine. In one detergent is used, whilst the smaller of the two tanks contains hot water for the final rinsing process. Unfortunately at the time of inspection this apparatus was not in working order, and as a result there was an unpleasant odour coming from the tanks.

Sanitary accommodation for both sexes and washing facilities are very good.

Meat for pies and sausage filling is minced and prepared on the premises.

The bakehouse was, generally speaking, quite clean and free from any serious default.

Three Tuns Lane, Formby - Lock-up type bakehouse situated in old premises. Whilst the floor was found to be of good concrete and the walls rendered in cement composition from top to bottom, the ceiling heights were very poor indeed. One half of the area was only six feet, whilst in the remainder only about seven feet is attained.

Work benches were so arranged that employees had their backs to the windows, and electric lighting was in use during daytime on a bright day.

A glazed earthenware sink was insanitary with defective tiling at the rear. The red tiled floor was defective.

It was stated at the time of visiting that a scheme for the improvement of these premises was in hand; it is necessary.

126, Church Road, Formby - This bakehouse consisted of two rooms attached to and forming part of a building used as a shop with living accommodation above.

The floors were of wood, in good condition and very clean, as were all the benches and tables used for food preparation. Ingredients and flour were stored so as to prevent contamination and deterioration.

A large bay window provided adequate light and ventilation was satisfactory.

Hot water is laid on to a good glazed earthenware sink, the wooden drainer of which was also in good condition.

In the baking room, the flooring was of quarry tiles.

Halsall Lane - This bakehouse was found to be in a most unsatisfactory condition and in its present state quite unsuitable for food preparation.

The room is attached to a dwelling house and to gain access to the shop, the proprietors have to traverse the hall of the dwelling; furthermore a door leads from the bakehouse direct into a wash-house belonging to the dwelling house.

Natural lighting was so deficient at the time of inspection that a fluorescent electric light had to be kept burning, and none of the bakehouse windows could be opened. Ventilation was very poor.

The floor was of concrete, uneven in places.

A wooden partition in the bakehouse enclosed a stairway used by a sign-writer who had use of a room above. A door from the bakehouse leads to this staircase.

Walls and wooden partition were whitewashed.

The plaster of walls and ceiling was in very poor condition, both of repair and cleanliness.

A collection of tables, none of which had a good clean working surface, were in use. Underneath these tables there was a collection of filth.

Two containers, which were on a shelf under one of the tables, held butter cream and were uncovered. Next to these was a pan containing chocolate which was stated to have been there for several months without covering. Storage accommodation for ingredients and food stuffs was totally inadequate.

The stoneware sink requires renewal. The only sanitary accommodation available for the staff is the one belonging to the dwelling house.

There was evidence of continued neglect in this bakehouse and measures should be adopted to secure considerable improvement, both in the structure and cleanliness.

Jacques Cafe, Chapel Lane - The bakehouse is situated at the rear of the shop and cafe, and there is living accommodation above the shop.

The floor of the bakehouse was found to be covered partly with rubber tiles and partly with linoleum. The walls are painted. Two stainless steel tables are provided for handling pastry etc. Hot water is adequate in quantity, being provided by a gas geyser over the sink.

The outside storeroom was found to be in need of considerable improvement. The ceiling composed of hard board was hanging loose from the main timbers, and there were defective tiles on the floor.

Cooking for the cafe, where only light meals are served, is carried out in a separate section of the shop. The hot and cold water supply was found to be plentiful and a stainless steel sink is fitted. Heaters for soup and milk are available.

The shop, cafe and food preparation room were very clean.

Butchers Shops

The shops visited were found to be very clean, and refrigerators were examined in every case. It is pleasing to record that, without exception, the interiors of refrigerators were scrupulously clean, and it was evident that the butchers realise the importance of paying attention to this piece of apparatus, which is often neglected.

The making-up of sausages, etc., was also being carried on under satisfactory conditions.

A little more attention to the protection of bones from flies by use of dustbins with lids and to rear yard areas would prevent any fly nuisance.

Other Food Shops

Visits were also paid to other types of premises where food is handled and sold, and it was found that there is a general appreciation of the need to avoid contamination of open food. Grocers, greengrocers and fishmongers premises were on the whole very clean and in the former there is a majority of pre-packed foods. The increase in the sale of potatoes packed in plastic bags is a noticeable improvement.

SURVEY - GENERAL

I would like to express my thanks to the officers of the District Council for their co-operation in connection with this survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Proceed with the sewerage of those unsewered parts of the district where housing development has already taken place.
2. Secure the provision of internal water supplies to houses now having private sources of supply, and where dwellings are too remote from mains to make this practicable institute a regular routine of sampling and such other measures as will ensure that private sources of supply are free from pollution or properly filtered and/or chlorinated.
3. Provide such additional facilities as are found to be necessary to enable house and trade refuse to be disposed of in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry for "Controlled Tipping of Refuse."
4. Consider the provision of such additional public sanitary conveniences in the district as are necessary to prevent the creation of nuisances.
5. Give consideration to all observations and suggestions embodied in this report.

S. C. GAWNE

County Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
East Cliff County Offices,
PRESTON.

23rd June, 1960.